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By Express Mail # EL513860038US - December 30, 1999

Attorney Docket # 3245-710PUS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re National Phase PCT Application of

Werner RAHMFELD

International Appln. No.: PCT/DE98/01633

International Filing Date: 15 June 1998

For: Method and Device for Producing Thin Slabs

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

BOX PCT

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of a first Office Action and simultaneously with the filing of the present application, please amend said application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, delete line 2:

after line 2, insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION